[Translation]

Recognition from All India Council for Technical Education

*313. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made it compulsory for all the institutions engaged in providing technical education to get recognition from All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of institutions recognised by the Council after verifying their educational standards and examination results?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (c) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), established as a statutory authority under the AICTE Act, 1987 is empowered to grant approval for starting new technical institutions and for introduction of new courses or programmes in consultation with the agencies concerned. As on 31.12.1996 the AICTE has approved 1504 Diploma level and 753 Degree level institutions in Technical Education covering the fields of Engineering and Technology, Pharmacy, Architecture and Hotel Manatement and Catering Technology.

[English]

Deported Indians from Gulf Countries

*314. PROF. P. J. KURIEN :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indians deported from Gulf countries due to lack of adequate documents during last one year;

(b) the number of them returned to Gulf countries after obtaining proper documents;

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government with regard to the remaining deported workers;

(d) whether inquiries have been made into the circumstances in which so many Indians had gone to UAE without proper documents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c) During the year 1996, over 70,000 Indians were deported from Golf countries after Indian missions issued emergency certificates to them to return to India. These perfons were deported, either because they entered legally but due to overstay or other reasons became illegal; or they entered illegally, with or without visas/passports. The number of persons who were deported on their Indian passports due to illegal stay cannot be exactly estimated as the local authorities do not provide this information to the Indian missions. Hence, the illegal status of Indian nationals is due to a lack of valid permission to stay in Gulf countries, rather than non-availability of Indian travel documents.

The actual number of Indians, out of those deported from Gulf countries, who have returned to these countries cannot be estimated as they are not required to identify themselves as returnees either at the time of exit from India or report to the Indian missions on arrival in Gulf countries.

Government have already issued instructions to passport issuing authorities in India for issue of duplicate or fresh passports, as the case may be, to Indian nationals deported from the Gulf, subject to the furnishing of required documentation. However, their return to Gulf countries is dependent on their obtaining valid visas.

A vast majority of persons deported from UAE had originally gone to UAE holding valid travel documents and on valid visas. Their stay became illegal subsequently when they did not abide by the visa conditions. Their large scale deportation has been as a result of the tightening of immigration procedures in UAE and a crackdown on illegal immigrants. A small percentage, however, would be persons who would have gone by sea or crossed over by land from neighbouring Gulf countries with or without valid travel documents.

Insurgent Activities in North-Eastern Areas

*315. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Hasina admits Ulfa camps in Bangla" appearing in 'The Asian Age' dated December 17, 1996;

(b) if so, the precise locations and strength of such camps;

(c) whether these camps are also used as conduits for supplying arms into the North-Eastern areas of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have asked the Bangladesh Government to close down these camps; and

(f) if so, the response of the Bangladesh Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (f) Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Hasina admits ULFA

camps in Bangla" appearing in the Asian Age dated December 17, 1996. During her discussions in Delhi in December 1996, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh had conveyed that her Government was fully cognizant of India's security concerns including the presence of insurgent groups across the border.

Government is aware of anti-India activities of ULFA insurgents inside Bangladesh. Government's concern at such activities have been taken up on a regular basis with the Government of Bangladesh at high levels. A positive response has been received from the Government of Bangladesh. Both Bangladesh and India have agreed to work together to counter terrorism and insurgency activities and have stated that they would not permit their territories to be used for any activity targeted against the other. The Home Secretaries of India and Bangladesh during their meeting in February 1997 also agreed to take all necessary action on specific information provided in regard to security related matters exchanged between the two sides.

Employment to Farmers whose Land has been Acquired

*316. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any policy under which members of families of such farmers whose land has been acquired for construction of dams can be employed in such projects; and

(b) if so, the number of local people provided employment in Damodar valley Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) There is at present no National Resettlement and Rahabilitation Policy. However, in the year 1980, the then Union Ministry of Irrigation had issued directives to all the States regarding rehabilitation of displaced persons due to major reservoir projects. Besides, various State Governments have evolved their own Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policies which vary from State to State and Project to Project. Employment Opportunities for eligible mambers of such families whose land has been acquired for construction of dams are attempted to be taken care of to the extent possible.

(b) As per information received from Damodar Valley Corporation, for the old projects like construction of Dams, Power Plants, the policy of Damodar Valley Corporation was to fill up 30% attrition vacancies from the panels prepared for the displaced persons. For new projects, policy is to give employment to one member of those families which lost 75% and above of their land holding. From, 1978 onwards, out of 1398 displaced persons empanelled against the old projects, 635 persons have so far been provided employment in Damodar Valley Corporation. As for Majia Thermal Power Station which is a new project, appointment offars to 120 displaced persons against the displaced quota have been isuued and all of them have already joined in the unskilled posts.

Assistance to Technical Institutions

*317. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance given by World Bank/ other international organisations, for establishing technical/professional institutions in Maharashtra and Karnataka, project-wise;

(b) the progress achieved in respect of ongoing projects;

(c) the new projects proposed by the State Governments for financial assistance by the World Bank/ other international organisations, location-wise;

(d) the present status of the proposals, proposal-wise;

(e) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought funds for purchase of equipments and for creating internet facilities among technical institutions; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (f) The World Bank assisted project for development of Technician Education includes establishment of 3 new polytechnics in Maharashtra and 3 polytechnics in Karnataka. The total outlay under the project for Maharashtra is Rs. 164.2 crores and that for Karnataka is Rs. 46.6 crores. Except one polytechnic for Film and Television Institute in Karnataka all other institutions have been established. The World Bank assisted project covers polytechnics in 19 States with a total project cost of about Rs. 1650 crores. No other proposals are in the process so far as assistance sought by the State Governments from international agencies for technical institutions are concerned.

Guidelines for Safety and Hygiene of Food

*318. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has studied the book on "Health Law : International and Regional Perspectives" by an internationally renowned legal expert;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;